

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected the application on various bases. Applicant has amended the application so as to overcome the rejections of the Examiner, and to otherwise place the application in condition for allowance at the present time.

Specifically, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112 based on the contention that they fail to comply with the second paragraph thereof. In particular, with respect to claim 1, the Examiner has indicated that one each of lines 12 and 16, the claim recites "a male probe portion." Applicant has changed the second "a" to a "said", thereby correcting this informality. With respect to claims 8, 11, 14 and 17, Applicant has amended "said guide portion" to "said guide structure." Accordingly, Applicant submits that all issues relative to 35 U.S.C. §112 have been overcome.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 11 and 17 through 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on the contention that it is anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 2,485,006 issued to Main, Jr. et al. The Examiner has identified that claims 2 through 10 and 12 through 16 would be deemed allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent form and by overcoming the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections.

Solely for expediting the prosecution of the present application, and without addressing the veracity of the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has amended claim 2 to include the limitations of claim 1 and claim 1 has been cancelled. As such claim 2 should be deemed allowable at the present time. The dependency of claims has been amended such that the dependent claims ultimately depend from claim 2. Additionally, the limitations of claim 2 have been introduced into the independent claims, namely claims 18. Claims 19 through claim 22 have been cancelled. Accordingly, each of claims 2 through 22 should be deemed allowable at

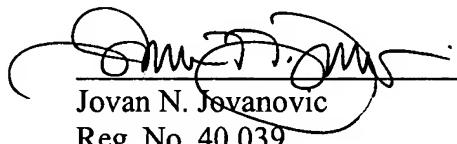
the present time.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that each of claims 2 through 18 should be deemed allowable at the present time. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

If any other charges or fees must be paid or credited in connection with this communication, they may be paid or credited out of Deposit Account No. 50-2131.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jovan N. Jovanovic
Reg. No. 40,039

KING & JOVANOVIC, PLC
170 College Avenue, Suite 230
Holland, Michigan 49423
Phone (616) 355-0400
Facsimile (616) 355-9862